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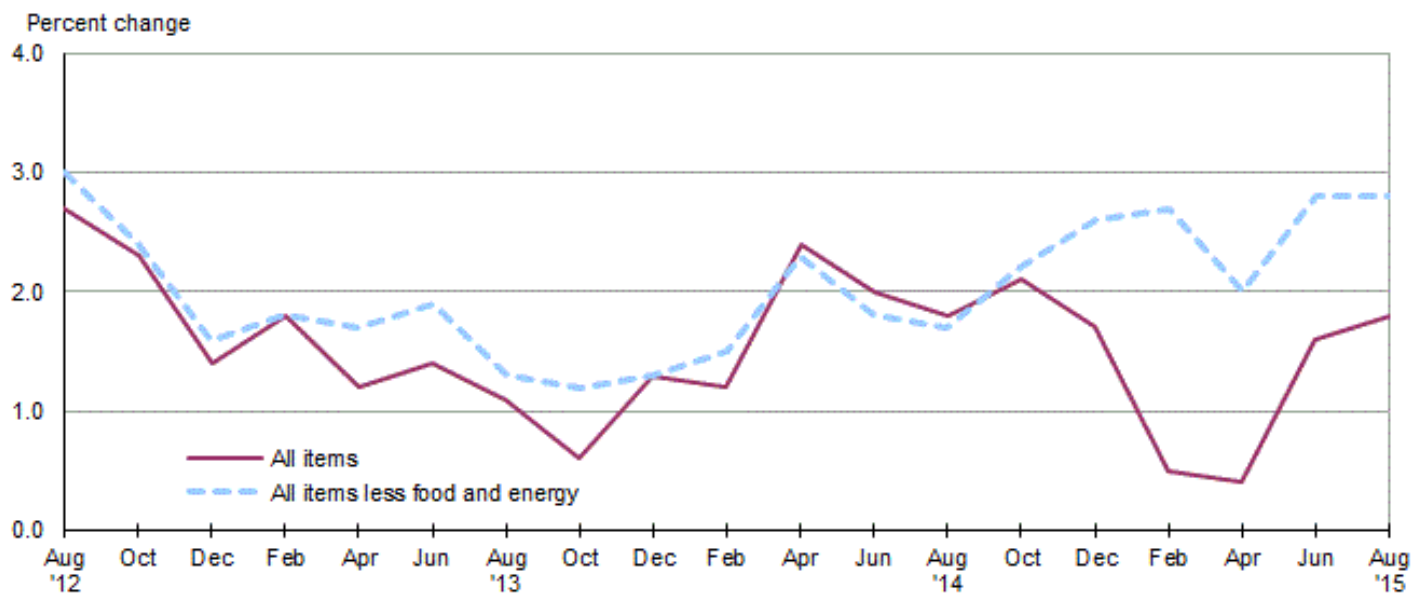
Consumer Price Index, Seattle area — August 2015

Area prices were unchanged over the past two months, up 1.8 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Seattle Area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), were unchanged for the two months ending in August 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Richard J. Holden noted that in August higher prices for shelter and food were offset by lower prices for household furnishings and operations and gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 1.8 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Energy prices dropped 11.5 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.8 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Seattle, August 2012–August 2015



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 0.8 percent for the two months ending in August. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 1.0 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 3.3 percent. Prices for food at home moved up 3.3 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home advanced 3.2 percent.

Energy

The energy index decreased 0.2 percent for the two months ending in August. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-0.3 percent). Prices for electricity and natural gas service were both unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices dropped 11.5 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-20.3 percent). Prices paid for electricity advanced 6.1 percent, and prices for natural gas service increased 5.3 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy inched down 0.1 percent in the latest two-month period. Prices for household furnishings and operations declined 1.0 percent. In contrast, prices increased for apparel (2.1 percent), education and communication (1.0 percent), and recreation (1.0 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.8 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (5.4 percent) and household furnishings and operations (1.4 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-1.4 percent).

Table A. Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton CPI-U bi-monthly and annual percent changes (not seasonally adjusted)

Month	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015	
	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual	Bi-monthly	Annual
February	0.2	0.6	1.2	1.5	0.4	2.7	0.8	1.8	0.7	1.2	0.2	1.1
April	0.2	0.3	0.8	2.1	0.9	2.9	0.4	1.2	1.6	2.4	0.9	0.4
June	-0.2	-0.5	0.8	3.2	0.7	2.7	0.8	1.4	0.4	2.0	1.6	1.6
August	0.7	0.2	0.2	2.7	0.3	2.7	0.0	1.1	-0.2	1.8	0.0	1.8
October	-0.2	0.4	0.9	3.8	0.5	2.3	0.0	0.6	0.3	2.1		
December	-0.2	0.6	-0.5	3.5	-1.4	1.4	-0.7	1.3	-1.1	1.7		

The October 2015 Consumer Price Index for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton is scheduled to be released on November 17, 2015.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 4,000 housing units and approximately 26,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of Island, King, Kitsap, Pierce, Snohomish, and Thurston Counties in the State of Washington.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
Expenditure category						
All items	251.622	-	251.617	1.8	0.0	-
All items (1967=100)	767.041	-	767.027	-	-	-
Food and beverages	257.481	-	259.640	3.2	0.8	-
Food	260.664	-	262.673	3.3	0.8	-
Food at home	248.837	249.910	251.412	3.3	1.0	0.6
Food away from home	279.419	-	280.575	3.2	0.4	-
Alcoholic beverages	220.375	-	223.956	2.1	1.6	-
Housing	275.245	-	275.841	4.9	0.2	-
Shelter	307.976	308.826	309.149	5.4	0.4	0.1
Rent of primary residence ⁽¹⁾	308.007	308.817	310.511	5.6	0.8	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of residences ^{(1) (2)}	319.920	321.236	322.043	5.3	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence ^{(1) (2)}	319.920	321.236	322.043	5.3	0.7	0.3
Fuels and utilities	255.408	-	255.290	4.2	0.0	-
Household energy	235.566	235.548	235.401	4.7	-0.1	-0.1
Energy services ⁽¹⁾	280.430	280.430	280.430	6.0	0.0	0.0
Electricity ⁽¹⁾	295.114	295.114	295.114	6.1	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service ⁽¹⁾	191.211	191.211	191.211	5.3	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	174.495	-	172.807	1.4	-1.0	-
Apparel	127.922	-	130.658	-1.4	2.1	-
Transportation	225.122	-	219.940	-5.3	-2.3	-
Private transportation	229.111	-	228.312	-6.8	-0.3	-
Motor fuel	331.935	342.182	330.712	-20.4	-0.4	-3.4
Gasoline (all types)	338.777	349.343	337.788	-20.3	-0.3	-3.3
Gasoline, unleaded regular ⁽³⁾	370.618	382.353	369.174	-20.9	-0.4	-3.4
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade ^{(3) (4)}	263.576	271.011	262.863	-19.1	-0.3	-3.0
Gasoline, unleaded premium ⁽³⁾	301.639	311.279	302.294	-18.4	0.2	-2.9
Medical care	-	-	378.415	-	-	-
Recreation ⁽⁵⁾	95.725	-	96.654	0.7	1.0	-
Education and communication ⁽⁵⁾	138.086	-	139.418	0.7	1.0	-
Other goods and services	395.732	-	395.465	-0.2	-0.1	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	251.622	-	251.617	1.8	0.0	-
Commodities	191.091	-	191.711	-2.3	0.3	-
Commodities less food & beverages	158.047	-	157.973	-5.9	0.0	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	188.021	-	189.266	-8.2	0.7	-
Durables	127.333	-	125.965	-2.4	-1.1	-
Services	308.099	-	307.540	4.2	-0.2	-
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	245.706	-	245.907	2.0	0.1	-
All items less shelter	230.436	-	229.935	-0.1	-0.2	-
Commodities less food	160.720	-	160.791	-5.5	0.0	-
Nondurables	221.398	-	223.079	-2.3	0.8	-
Nondurables less food	190.880	-	192.307	-7.4	0.7	-
Services less rent of shelter ⁽²⁾	315.888	-	313.258	2.8	-0.8	-
Services less medical care services	299.928	-	299.751	4.7	-0.1	-
Energy	290.692	295.891	289.985	-11.5	-0.2	-2.0
All items less energy	251.936	-	251.975	2.9	0.0	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015	Aug. 2015	Aug. 2014	Jun. 2015	Jul. 2015
All items less food and energy	250.692	-	250.405	2.8	-0.1	-

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Index is on a November 1982=100 base.

(3) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(4) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(5) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.